

Dutton Twin Houses
E side of Main Street (RT. 202)
Hillsborough
Hillsborough County
New Hampshire

HABS No. NH-161

HABS
NH,
6-HILL,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DUTTON TWIN HOUSES

HABS No. NH-161

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NH,
6-HILL,
1-

Location: East side of Main Street (Route 202),
Hillsborough, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire.

Present Owner: North House: Unknown.
South House: Mrs. Joseph Garafoli, 74 Washington
Street, Concord, New Hampshire.

Present Occupant: North House: Vacant.
South House: Joseph Garafoli, Jr., & family.

Present Use: Private Residences.
(North House may be converted to apartments.)

Significance: As originally built, these twin houses were
virtually mirror images of each other. While
basically of Greek Revival temple form, they
incorporate Italianate details as well. The two
houses share a barn that is between them and
connected to both.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: North House: Originally built by Ephriam Dutton (1807-1892) about 1860. It passed from Dutton to Towie, to Hazleton, to Lundberg, to Tuttle, to the present owner in April 1964. South House: Built by Benjamin Frank Dutton (1831-1915) and lived in by him until he died. The house was then closed for a time, and later sold to Marygold Chandler, but after she left, closed again. It was bought by Joseph Garafoli in 1926 and is now owned by his widow and occupied by his son. (All of the above information is from a telephone interview with Mrs. Garafoli.)
2. Date of erection: Circa 1860 [Interview with Mrs. Garafoli and stylistic evidence.] The book entitled New Hampshire (American Guide series, WPA Writer's project, New York, 1938, p. 462) gives the date of 1880 - which seems too late.
3. Architect: Unknown.
4. Builder, suppliers: Unknown.
5. Original plans, construction: None known.

6. Alterations and additions: The south house had two pointed gable windows added to the south side of the rear ell and a "state dining room" of quartered oak. These additions were done by Marygold Chandler, before 1900.
7. Important old views: None known.

B. Historical Context:

Built by Ephriam Dutton (1807-92) and his son Benjamin Frank Dutton (1831-1915) [G. Waldo Browne, History of Hillsborough, Manchester, N.H., 1922, p. 183]. Ephriam was a well liked merchant, representative to the State Legislature in 1868 and 1869 and a life long resident of Hillsborough. His son removed to Boston in 1858 and joined in establishing the Houghton and Dutton Department store there

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PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Greek Revival facade, French renaissance windows, cornice in the bracketed mode, gothic peaked gables, stained glass, etc. The two houses are almost identical on the exterior (except for the two gothic gables added to the S. house), but they differ considerably on the interior. The S. house is the more original of the two.
2. Condition of fabric: Both houses are in good condition.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Approximately 30 feet across front and 70 feet deep (including rear ells).
2. Foundations: Granite.
3. Wall construction: Vertical stud frame; horizontal clapboards on sides and wood sheathing to simulate rustification on facade.
4. Porches (Facades): Facades: Four giant fluted columns with Corinthian-esque caps which support very thin abacus blocks

which in turn support a frieze decorated with raised rectangular "fielded" panels. Over each cap are a pair of elaborate scroll brackets, repeated in the "ranking cornice" of the pediment. The N. house has a one story bay window on the S. side which is a later addition.

5. Chimneys: Two in the N. house; north chimney of N. house is cut off and capped just beneath the roof.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Front doorway of the N. house has simple rectangular surround with horizontal and vertical lights flanking. Door itself has two long and narrow panels with curved tops and bottoms.
 - b. Floor length French windows: On the facade acanthus carved corbels support lintels which have egg-and-dart motif carved into the ovolo six-over-six double hung sash. Each window has two pairs of louvered shutters. Windows on sides of house are capped by simple lintels supported by small brackets. S. house has stained glass window in ground story ell.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Simple pitch roof, gable ends face road; covered with asphalt shingles.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Bracketed cornice all around; soffits of the eaves are panelled. No gutters or leaders.
 - c. Dormers, cupolas: Elaborate bracketed cupola on barn between the two houses.
 - d. Framing: Series of 2 x 8" principals butted together with no ridge pole. Roofers laid directly on these. Balloon frame construction.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Ground Floor: Entrance hall with stair on left of facade; front parlor on right. Behind parlor is library with bay window (later addition). Behind entrance hall is a bedroom. Behind library is a dining room. Bath and kitchen in rear part of house. Second story: Upper stair hall with curved walls; bedrooms above parlor and behind stair hall. Curved hallway leading to the rear of the house continues the curve to the spiral stair but in the opposite direction. Rear part of 2nd floor contains long straight hall, 2 bedrooms, bath and kitchen. All of modern finish.

2. Stairways: Spiral staircase (i.e. laid out on the arc of a circle or ellipse) placed in spacious hall. Mahogany handrail meets the newel with a spiral; three slender turned balusters to a tread, open string. Niche in wall opposite handrail at point where stair curves.
3. Flooring: Wide boards, variously varnished and painted.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Part plaster, part paint, part modern wall paper; high baseboards, no chair rail. Some ceilings modern composition board.
5. Doorways and doors: 4 panel, panels recessed. Upper story front doorways enframed with frieze and cornice.
6. Trim: Window frames of classically inspired moldings. Marble mantelpiece in front parlor; wood mantles in rooms behind.
7. Butt hinges, glass door knobs. (Trim).
8. Lighting: electric outlets.
9. Heating: Radiators for steam heat, oil furnace.

D. Site:

1. Orientation: Both houses face west.
2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: Barn between the two houses, connected by twin sheds.
4. Walks, drives, etc: Dirt semi-circular drive in front of both houses.

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